

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*In re Application of:* )  
Nestor J. SANTI, ET AL. ) Examiner: Aaron M. Dunwoody  
Application No.: 10/700,484 ) Group Art Unit: 3679  
Filed: November 5, 2003 ) Confirmation No.: 7754  
For: **HIGH-STRENGTH SEALED** ) July 16, 2007  
  **CONNECTION FOR EXPANDABLE** )  
  **TUBULARS** )

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In further response to the Final Office Action dated August 15, 2006, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the following amendments in view of the associated remarks, as part of the accompanying Request for Continued Examination.